

ADD MS 362

V. 5. 4. 2

PUBLICATIONS

The

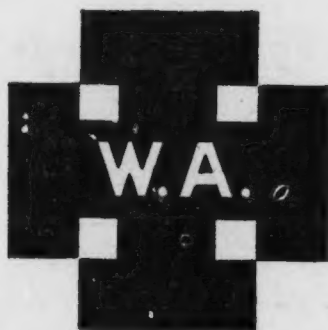
Woman's Auxiliary

in the

Diocese of

New Westminster

"Thy Kingdom Come"



"The Love of Christ Constraineth Us."

1904-1916

Preface

This little history of the New Westminster diocesan branch of the Woman's Auxiliary has been written, at the request of the Board, by Mrs. Van Nostrand and by her lovingly dedicated to Alice Owen who for close upon twice seven years, so ably, patiently and wisely acted as diocesan President and to whom, under God, so much of the success has been due.

To me as President of the first Branch, has fallen the honour of writing this short preface, and gladly I do so, for his dear sake, the first Bishop of New Westminster, at whose invitation two members of the General Board, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings and Miss Patterson came out to the Coast to organize, in the Cathedral City of New Westminster, this Pioneer Branch.

In writing this record Mrs. Van Nostrand has accomplished a valuable work, for it will tell "them that come after" how a quarter of a century ago the foundations of our W. A. were laid and how by degrees, stone upon stone, the present structure has been built up.

God grant that it may be a work meet for the Master's use and that we, it's members "as fellow workers with Him" may ever seek His Honour and Glory and the enlargement of His Kingdom.

Violet E. Sillitoe.

September, 1916.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY IN THE DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER.

Beginning in 1904.

New Westminster at that time being a Missionary Diocese, the Woman's Auxiliary had a very small beginning, but the truth of the old proverb: "Despise not the day of small things," has long ago been proven.

Previous to the organization of the Diocesan Board five Branches were in existence, namely:

1. Holy Trinity Cathedral Branch, organized September, 1890.
2. Christ Church, Vancouver, organized 1898.
3. St. Michael's, Vancouver, organized October 10th, 1901.
4. St. James' Church, Vancouver, organized January 14th, 1903.
5. Holy Trinity, Vancouver, organized spring of 1903.

October 2nd, 1904, was the date upon which a meeting of the various Branches was called by Mrs. Pentreath, who was at that time a Vice-President of the General Board, for the purpose of organizing the Diocesan Board of Management for New Westminster. This meeting was held in Christ Church schoolroom, the late Venerable Archdeacon Pentreath presiding; Rev. C. C. Owen was also present and gave a short address.

Four Branches were represented: Christ Church, St. James', St. Michael's, and Holy Trinity.

A constitution based upon that of an eastern Diocese, slightly amended to suit western needs, was adopted, and the following officers were elected:

- Honorary President—Mrs. Dart.
- Honorary Vice-President—Mrs. Pentreath.
- President—Mrs. C. C. Owen.
- First Vice-President—Mrs. Thain.
- Second Vice-President—Mrs. Van Nostrand.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Shoebbotham.
Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Brenton.
Treasurer—Mrs. Lye.
Dorcas Secretary—Mrs. Dowling.
Leaflet Secretary or Editor—Sister Frances.

The first monthly business meeting was held on the afternoon of October 27th, 1904. The President being absent owing to illness, the chair was taken by the late Mrs. Murray Thain, our loved First Vice-President.

It is interesting to note that the first resolution carried by this Board was the adoption of an annual fee of 25 cents for each Board member. When this resolution was rescinded is not recorded.

Work for this newly-formed Missionary organization was already at hand, the first appeal being received at this meeting. This was for the needs of our own Diocesan Indians, and came from Mrs. Jukes of Chilliwack—Rev. Mark Jukes being at that time Missionary in charge.

Incidentally, Chilliwack was many times first in these early days, noteworthy being:

First to have out-of-town Junior Branch.

First to request constitutions, members' cards and badges.

First to respond to address of welcome.

First to ask for United Thankoffering boxes.

First out-of-town Juniors to undertake Dorcas work.

And first out-of-town Branch to send contribution for Bishopric Endowment fund.

Among earliest important events was the choosing, by the Honorary President, Mrs. Dart, of our Diocesan motto: "Thy Kingdom come." This was recorded in January, 1905.

Five new Branches were added to the roll by this time, and reports from many parishes brought the news of awakening interest in the Woman's Auxiliary. This resulted in Mrs. Lye being made a Representative for all outlying districts in the Diocese.

The first Dorcas work undertaken was that of providing an infant's outfit and a sewing machine for Mrs. Venables, wife of the Vicar of Port Moody.

The first foreign appeal was for funds towards a kindergarten in Japan, from Mrs. Hamilton. This was to be sent to the Junior Branches in the Diocese, as that of Christ Church was the only one in existence, necessary steps were at once taken to extend and arouse interest in the Woman's Auxiliary among the children. To this end a Diocesan Junior Secretary was elected—Mrs. Dougal, of the newly-formed Branch of St. Paul's being the first to hold this office. Following this very soon was the election of Mrs. Barton, of Holy Trinity Branch, as Babies' Branch Secretary.

The first appeal from the General Board was for \$5.00 towards the salary of Miss Makeham, of Matsumoto.

The first pledge undertaken was that known as the Caledonia, and was for a period of three years.

This brings the Board to arrangements for the first annual meeting, which was to have been held in May, but owing to the serious illness of the President, was postponed until October, one day only being necessary for the business of this first annual. Special speakers were Ven. Archdeacon Pentreath, Rev. C. C. Owen, Rev. Fynnes Clinton, Archdeacon Small, Rev. Arthur Owen, Rev. Silva White, and Rev. Mr. Roy.

A well-remembered feature of our first annual meeting is the luncheon—one might almost term it a feast. We had many honored guests, and our committee thought it well worth while to show appreciation for their presence by a generous hospitality. There was no hurry or crowding on that occasion, but a quiet, dignified procession to the dining hall, where a very happy hour was spent in friendly and helpful intercourse between the clergy and our Woman's Auxiliary workers. Increasing numbers forbid a continuation of what might become a tax upon the generosity of our

members, but that first luncheon was both helpful and profitable. Mrs. Tucker was convenor, with the able assistance of Mrs. Godfrey.

And so ended the initial year of Woman's Auxiliary work in this Diocese.

The second year marks the beginning of more definite plans and activities, the need for workers and the means to provide for the same in this rapidly developing west being very great. That best results might be obtained right methods were necessary: therefore printed copies of the constitution was the next consideration. The only record so far in this connection being a resolution that several copies be typewritten. Unfortunately none of these are now to be found.

In December, 1905, a resolution carried that four hundred Parochial and one hundred Diocesan copies of the constitution be printed. Later these were found inadequate and incomplete, and were revised and reissued under one cover September, 1910. Revised again November, 1914. The final revision being submitted to a full Board meeting, considered and adopted clause by clause.

The need for more funds constantly arising, in January or February, 1906, the first combined Branch entertainment was given, taking the form of a musicale, from which the sum of \$85.00 was realized. This was given to Rev. Mr. Donaldson, of Steveston, in response to an appeal for funds to repair the church there.

The close of the second year of Woman's Auxiliary activities brings us to Easter week, when the first combined bale was packed in Christ Church schoolroom.

The second annual meeting is marked by the presentation of the first Diocesan Life Memberships, the recipients being Mrs. Dart, Mrs. Pen-treath, Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Thain, and Mrs. Walton.

Passing on from first events, we find the work developing and enlarging so rapidly that only important steps may now be touched upon.

Prominent is that of helping to place this Dio-

cese among those which were self-supporting. To this end the Woman's Auxiliary raised in 1905 and 1906, \$300.00 towards the Bishopric Endowment Fund. This object found such hearty and ready support that \$1,000.00 was added the following year.

December 5th, 1906, a monthly meeting at St. Michael's was the occasion of an interesting event. That date being the birthday of the first Vice-President, Mrs. Thain, the members of the Board were treated to birthday cakes. She at the same time, in her own bright, happy manner, laughingly adding to the funds as many cents as she was years old. This led to a resolution that each Board member make a similar offering from year to year. Hence the Woman's Auxiliary birthday box, one might expect it to be filled to the brim every year; but it is really astonishing how few birthdays we members of the Board have!

April, 1907, a Diocesan Life Member was given this Board by an eastern Branch, that of Hamilton, Ont., conferring this honor upon Mrs. Groseman on the occasion of her removal to Chilliwack, B. C.

These earlier meetings are very full of interesting events, but time will not permit the recalling of all. Worthy of mention, however, is the gift to the Woman's Auxiliary by Mrs. McAdam of many valuable and interesting Hawaiian curios, an exhibition and sale of which, together with an entertainment, was held in Christ Church school-room on November 7th, 1907. The proceeds were added to the Bishopric Endowment Fund, then nearing completion.

On the same date the first General Life Membership Certificate was presented to Mrs. McAdam, she having previously paid the General fee.

Early in the following year the completion of the above-mentioned fund became an accomplished fact, and the \$1,300.00 raised by the Woman's Auxiliary, together with the amount raised by the Diocesan Synod, was paid to the British Columbia

Church Aid Society on the occasion of the Pan-Anglican Conference in London, England, June, 1908.

In this connection it is interesting to recall a united Thanksgiving service for the formation of the Woman's Auxiliary, held in Christ Church, April 19th, 1908. The collection taken at this meeting was added to the great Thankoffering presented at the Pan-Anglican Conference.

In October of the same year a communication from the General Board gives the information that a Diocesan Life Member removing to another Diocese is still entitled to all the privileges which were accorded her in the former Diocese.

Many appeals soon follow, and efforts must be made for the Superannuation, Clergy, Widows' and Orphans', Educational and other funds. Help was also urgently required for new Missions among the white settlers, as well as for those of our Diocesan Indians.

Vancouver is possibly one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the Dominion. Very prominent are "the strangers within our gates." That they may become of the household of Faith is the earnest desire of the Woman's Auxiliary. To this end Missionary work amongst resident Orientals has been undertaken from time to time. The first in this connection was that among Chinese and Japanese, the General Board previously undertaking this. Later this Board became responsible for a portion of the salary of Miss Omelia, the first Japanese worker in the East End Mission; subsequently the whole amount was assumed.

Perhaps the happiest and most satisfying to the Woman's Auxiliary in this sphere, is that known as work amongst Japanese women and children in the West End Mission. The need for such a Mission had long been in the mind of the late Archdeacon Pentreath, he frequently suggesting it to the Woman's Auxiliary. In 1909 the Board appointed a committee to investigate with a view to taking up this work. It was found that hundreds of Japanese women and children were living

in our city, and as yet our Church had done nothing towards bringing them into the fold of Christ. This was reported to the Diocesan Board, the outcome being a letter to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese recommending that an effort be made by the Woman's Auxiliary to open a Mission as soon as arrangements could be made to secure a suitable worker. The following is a copy of his Lordship's reply, dated May 3rd, 1909:—

"Your kind letter I have been obliged to leave amongst others unanswered for some time, having been unwell lately.

"I hope this will reach you in time for you to convey to the Woman's Auxiliary my hearty approval of their scheme for working amongst the Japanese women.

"With kind regards and best wishes, in which Mrs. Dart joins, I am,

"Yours faithfully,

"JOHN, NEW WESTMINSTER."

The opening of this Mission called for the exercise of strong faith and sound judgment, but from the first results have justified the undertaking. The Woman's Auxiliary was fortunate in securing the services and co-operation of Mrs. Patrick, who brought to the work a certain amount of training and experience, but, best of all, a genuine interest in and love for this Missionary undertaking. Very soon she had won the respect and esteem of all Japanese in the vicinity, and the mothers and many little children have found a blessing in the Mission and a warm and true friend in the worker, who is known amongst them as "Teacher." One only needs to see her in their midst to be assured that they dearly love and trust her. Better still is the knowledge that some have learned to love her Saviour, one of the Japanese fathers saying, when bringing little ones for baptism, "we want our children to have your religion and to know your God."

There have been difficulties and discouragement

ments, but the work has grown marvelously, the first and second rooms soon becoming too small, the purchase of a permanent Mission building seemed necessary. This was a very great undertaking, but faith was strong, and a building was acquired, the purchase price being \$4,000, of which the final payment is to be made during the coming year.

In March, 1912, a dedicatory service was held by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, in the building now occupied on Second Avenue.

In October of the same year your Organizing Secretary had the very great pleasure of organizing a Junior Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary there—this being the first Japanese Woman's Auxiliary in the Diocese.

Important and equally interesting also was the organization of the first Indian Branch, a Junior at the Yale Indian School. Very encouraging reports are frequently heard from this Branch.

Another step in advance recorded with joy is the offer for service in the Mission field of Miss Dorothy Page, one of our own members, the Woman's Auxiliary of this Diocese outfitting and maintaining her at St. Peter's Mission, Hay River, from 1910 until 1915.

The same year a new officer was created by the Board, that of United Thankoffering Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Eagland, of Holy Trinity Branch, being the first officer elected. This was followed by Branches doing likewise, and from this step a very great advance in the United Thankoffering Fund dates. Our Diocese has the distinction of being the first to have such an officer on the Executive.

The inauguration of the Memorial Fund (a fund peculiar to our Diocese) seems worthy of mention. In January, 1911, a resolution was passed by the Board that in the event of the death of a member or friend of the Woman's Auxiliary, instead of spending money on flowers as formerly, the Board or Branches would reserve the amount which would have been so spent to form a Me-

morial fund, placing on a "Memorial" roll the names of those "called to higher service" the fund to be allowed to accumulate for a time and eventually be used for a permanent Diocesan Missionary purpose. This fund is at present in the neighborhood of \$200, and as time goes on and it is thoroughly understood by all Branches it will grow so that there may be raised to the memory of many loved ones a fitting and lasting memorial, to the glory of God, and the advancement of His Kingdom.

February of the same year was the month chosen for the first rummage sale—now become a semi-annual event—the receipts from which always bring a smile to the face of our Diocesan Treasurer.

The same month the Church Furnishing Committee was accepted, and very soon work in abundance was at hand. Appeals, especially for Communion linen, have many times been responded to.

May 2nd, 1911, is the date of the passing of an important resolution, which was as follows: "All monies paid for Diocesan Life Membership Fees shall be held until the annual meeting of the Board. The recipient of Life Membership will then have the privilege of designating the fee to any of the Board pledges."

The annual meeting of that year saw the adoption of the Extra-Cent-a-Day Fund. This has been of the greatest service in Woman's Auxiliary work, as it is the only fund from which emergency calls may receive assistance from month to month during the year, all other funds being voted to the various pledges and appeals at the annual meeting. Many needy Missions have had reason to be thankful for the adoption by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Extra-Cent-a-Day Fund.

Dating from this annual meeting we have the printed copies of our Woman's Auxiliary reports, so it will be needless to weary you further lengthy details. However a few important undertakings should be mentioned.

In 1912 a Mission for East Indians in Vancouver

was opened, through the efforts of Rev. Lewis Hecker, of All Saints'. A well qualified Superintendent was appointed, the Woman's Auxiliary contributing towards the support of the Mission. This seemed to fill a very real need, Sikhs and Hindus gladly receiving instruction, five of them contributing \$12.00 each towards expenses.

In 1914 the work terminated suddenly and sadly by the death, after a short illness, of the Superintendent of the Mission. One can not see the number of East Indians in our city without offering a prayer that God may raise up another to carry on the work so well begun.

In 1915 two other fields seemed to open, the first being work amongst Chinese women and children similar to that now carried on at the West End Japanese Mission. For this we have an honorary worker, Miss Lucas, the Woman's Auxiliary being responsible for expenses of the Mission. The work is still in its infancy. Moreover, the Chinese women are still more difficult to reach than are the Japanese; but a small beginning has been made, most encouraging reports have been received, and the outlook is promising.

The second is that of Social Service, this work being jointly undertaken by the Diocesan Synod and the Woman's Auxiliary, each paying one-half the salary of a worker. The mixed nationality and peculiar situation of Vancouver makes the need for a friend and helper for the many unfortunates in the outer darkness of ignorance and sin, very real. This work is of necessity very slow. We are not yet looking for results, but we pray that some seed may have been sown which may lead erring ones to the loving, pitiful Saviour, who has said: "He that is without sin among you let him first cast a stone at her."

There are many activities which have not been touched upon, one of which, however, seems too interesting to pass without comment. In looking over the minutes of many meetings one was struck by the number of appeals for organs responded to by the Woman's Auxiliary. Surely there is music

in our Missions, whatever else may be lacking.

Many changes have taken place during the Woman's Auxiliary years that are gone. Our first meetings began at three o'clock p.m., later at two thirty, and finally at ten thirty a.m. The first annual meeting occupied one day. Now three days are not too long for the hearing of reports, Missionary intelligence, and addresses, and the transaction of business matters pertaining to our organization.

Many new officers have been added to the Executive. The first list gives the number at eleven, the present just twice that number. Of these last four were elected to office at the organization meeting, Mrs. Pentreath, Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Lye, and Mrs. Van Nostrand.

Some valued workers have transferred their services to other Dioceses, others have been obliged to withdraw from Woman's Auxiliary activities—whilst some are with the blessed number called to "higher service."

Of the development along spiritual lines some mention should be made. One of the first is the recommendation that on the first Sunday of the month every Woman's Auxiliary member endeavor to attend Holy Communion. Another, the setting aside of St. Andrew's Day as a special day of intercessory prayer, and the week preceding as a time of self-denial.

Helpful, too, are the monthly noon hour addresses given by the clergymen of the parish where the meeting is being held.

The Study Class has also been stimulating and very helpful, not only in the way of increasing intelligence, but also by awakening and developing sympathy, making one long to send the gospel of love and peace to the dark places of the earth.

One need not lack material for the above, for our Literature Secretary's table is always well supplied with books and pamphlets teeming with Missionary information and interest. The Woman's

Auxiliary library is another source from which one may glean Missionary intelligence and spiritual food.

And so the work goes on, each year opening up new avenues calling for consecrated service, earnest prayer, and strong faith.

As it has been impossible to mention all undertakings, the following list will give the more important and prominent:—

Diocesan Indians.	Support of Worker at St. Peter's Mission, Hay River, Diocese of Mackenzie River.
Chinese in Vancouver.	
Japanese in Vancouver.	Building of St. Andrew's Church, Grand Prairie, Athabasca.
East Indians in Vancouver.	Blind School, Palmaceah.
Seaman's Institute.	Parsonage Loan Fund.
Columbia Coast Mission.	Partial support temporarily of sick Missionary.
Bishopric Endowment Fund.	Half salary of Social Service worker.
Superannuation Fund.	
Clergy, Widows' and Orphans' Fund.	
Educational Fund.	

A few comparisons may also be of interest and will serve as well to emphasize the growth and development of the Woman's Auxiliary in this Diocese:—

First annual meeting 1905, roll call responded to by four Branches.	Annual meeting 1914, roll call responded to by 49 Branches. and 51 Life Members.
First annual meeting, no Diocesan Life Members.	
Collection at first annual meeting, \$15.05.	Collection at annual meeting 1915, \$98.66.
First United Thankoffering, \$5.64.	United Thankoffering, 1915, \$394.07.
First reported Babies' Branch offering, \$34.05.	Babies' Branch offering, 1915, \$231.21.
Total Branch membership, 1905, possibly 200.	Total membership, 1915, 2,913.
Total raised 1905, \$456.56.	Total raised, 1916, \$4,394.31.
Total raised first five years \$6,171.97.	Total raised last five years \$23,894.89.

Looking backward over the twelve years of Woman's Auxiliary activities, we can not but see that some mistakes have been made, and the work hindered by human weaknesses; but with joy we remember that, notwithstanding this, over and above all, our General motto, "The love of Christ constraineth us," has been the keynote of our endeavour.

We have learned many lessons of patience and tolerance, and year by year have been more closely drawn together by the strong and beautiful bonds of union in our Woman's Auxiliary.

And so we will continue to "go forward in faith and hope," looking unto Him who still is saying to His disciples: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel; and lo, I am with you alway."



CITIZEN PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO.
1451 Broadway W. Vancouver

